Crisis in Art Silk Industry

1709. SHRIMATL KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA:

Will th© Minister of TEXTILES be pleased tc state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the art silk industry which employ about five lakhs people is facing the problems of accumulated stock and subsequent cut in production; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to save the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSIflD ALAM KHAN)! (a) and (b) The users of polyester filament yarn did not for a while lift polyester filment yarn on account of % high prices. The manufacturers of filament yarn were us obliged to reduce the price sharply on about ^st November, 1985. With this price reduction the situation is expected to normalise soon.

Construction of a Pucca Road from Katra to Shrine Bhavan of Vaishno Devi

1701. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than twelve lakh pilgrims from the country and abroad annually visit the holy cave shrine of Vaishno Devi and they complain about the bad state of road between Katra and the cave shrine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has expressed ito desire to assist the State Government and the Dharmarth Trust in (he construction °f a pucca road from Katra to the Shrine Bhavan; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The statement giving the number of pilgrims who visited Vaishno Devi during the last five years is enclosed. (See below)

All matters relating to roads other than National Highways in States are essentially the responsibility of the concered State Government. Union Minister of State, Department of Surface Transport has offered to extend help for the construction of a pucca road from Katra to the Shrine Bhavan. But so far no request has been received from the state Government. It is however learnt from the Government of J&K that they have received no comclaints regarding poor road condition from Katra to the holy Shrine. According *to* them the bridle path. between katra and Vaishno Devi is fit for points and pedestrains, and is being maintained regularly, Under the 7th Five Year Plan budget of the State Government an outlay of Rs. 4.00 lakhs has been earmarked for extension/improvement of the track from Bangang to Holy Cave.

Statement

Number of Pilgrims who visited Mata-Vaishno Devi during last five years :

S. No.	Year	Within the State	Outside the State	Total
1	1981	2,05,105	10,08,377	12,13,482
2	1982	1,29,250	10,59,607	11,88,857
3	1983	1,43,208	11,40,132	12,83,340
4	1984	1,52,358	8,56,122	10,08,480
5	1985 (From 1st January to end of Oct)	1,61,665	11,01,755	12,63,420

Sd/-
Director Tourism
J & K Govt.